

TRACKS

Winter 2009/10



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BOO-At-The-Zoo*

Great Holiday Gift Ideas!

Go Green with FOCPPZ!

Friends of Columbian Park Zoo
1915 Scott Street
Lafayette, IN 47904
Tel: (765) 807-1545
Fax: (765) 807-1547
E-Mail: focpz@lafayette.in.us
Web Site:
www.columbianparkzoo.org

Boo-at-the-Zoo is a Huge Success



October 28th and 29th brought little ghouls and goblins to Columbian Park Zoo's annual Boo-at-the-Zoo Halloween event. Over 2900 people came out to enjoy the "hauntingly friendly" Halloween-themed games such as "Bat Wing Fling" and "Which Witch?". Children transformed themselves for the costume contest; we even saw a refrigerator and a table! In addition to the games, families enjoyed the Enchanted Train Ride through Columbian Park and tried their hands at cockroach painting and slime-making in the Creepy Crawlies tent. Children had their fortunes told by Madame Zelda, carved pumpkins and had their pictures taken with special zoo friends. This year's event also brought something extra special to Boo-at-the Zoo...a **GIANT** pumpkin weighing in at 483 pounds! Tippecanoe County Master Gardeners graciously donated this amazing specimen which became a hit with visitors of all ages. Thanks to all of our sponsors, volunteers and attendees who made this event possible. We'll see you next year for Boo-at-the-Zoo!



765-446-9735

Brick Pavers



Are you at a loss for what to buy that special family member, friend, or co-worker this holiday season? Give a gift that will last forever...engrave their name in history! Friends of Columbian Park Zoo offers brick pavers that make great gifts for anyone and will preserve the special memories of your local, Lafayette zoo for years to come. Bricks are available with three lines, 13 characters per line. Brick paver purchases are tax deductible, and proceeds benefit Friends of Columbian Park Zoo to support education, new and improved exhibits and the purchase of animals and supplies. For more information, please contact 765-807-1545 or visit us on the web at www.columbianparkzoo.org.



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Animal Sponsorships

Animal Sponsorships are a Friends of Columbian Park Zoo program. They make wonderful gifts for anyone and fit any size budget. For only \$35 per year (\$25 per year for *current zoo members*), you can sponsor one of the animals listed below. Benefits include an adorable plush of the animal you select, a beautiful 8X10 color photo of your animal, a one-year subscription to the *Tracks* newsletter, and a certificate of sponsorship that lets everyone that you're making a difference! Friends of Columbian Park Zoo is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and donations are tax deductible.

- ◆ Lucy, the Miniature Horse
- ◆ Blondie, the White-Handed Gibbon
- ◆ Madison, the Spider Monkey
- ◆ Paka, the Fennec Fox
- ◆ Gage, the Two-Toed Sloth
- ◆ Prince Charming, the Llama
- ◆ Crazy Horse, the Bald Eagle
- ◆ Diago, the Central American Boa
- ◆ Ollie, the Barn Owl



Holiday Pet Safety:

- * Snow globes often contain antifreeze, which is toxic to pets.
- * Pine needles, when ingested, can puncture holes in a pet's intestine.
- * Many plants can be toxic to cats and dogs. These include, poinsettias, mistletoe, holly and lilies.



6 Tips To Get On Santa's Green List!

By: Noah Shields
Education Assistant



Santa is even going “Green” this holiday season! With the current trends to “Go Green” and reduce your carbon footprint, many people are taking a long hard look at their lifestyles to determine what things, big or small, that they might be able to change to lessen their impact on the environment.

Contrary to what most people may think, these conservation decisions to green-up your lifestyle don't have to take a back seat during the holiday season. With the over-consuming of food, merchandise, paper, electricity, and other materials, the holiday season may seem like the last on the list of environmentally friendly holidays. You wouldn't be entirely wrong if you were to believe this. The holiday season does see an increase in consumption of natural resource use, but do not despair. You might be thinking that you have to drastically reduce what you are getting for the holidays but your holiday festivities can continue without any glitches or major changes. Keep the following tips in mind that will help green-up your holiday plans and place you on Santa's Green List:

Tip 1: Buy cards and wrapping paper made from recycled paper. In the past, these items may have been hard to find but they are increasing in presence and oftentimes decreasing in price as these companies become more environmentally friendly. Just following this one step will help decrease the amount of trees that need to be cut down to make simple things like cards and wrapping paper.

Tip 2: Update your holiday lights with smaller LED lights. These smaller lights will still emit the same holiday glow but will use approximately 85% less energy than those traditional, bulky bulbs. This will not only help reduce your carbon footprint but will also keep some of those hard-earned dollars in your pocket.

Tip 3: Bring your own reusable bags on shopping excursions. Those plastic bags that many retailers use may be recyclable but many of them do not come from recycled products. By bringing your own reusable canvas bags, this will help decrease the amount of material needed for plastic bags and might even save the retailer a few cents.

Tip 4: Pick your tree wisely. If you decide to use a living tree, there are a few important tips to keep in mind. As you shop around for a live tree, try to look for locally grown, smaller trees. These trees will have had less resources and energy poured into them to bring them to your locality. Once you are done with that perfectly selected tree, make sure to recycle it into wood chips or you might even be able to replant it depending on the tree.

Tip 5: Defrost foods in the refrigerator. For all of those delicious meals that you will be preparing, the preparation of those foods becomes important. Here's a great tip to help conserve water. If you need something thawed out, try defrosting it by placing it in the refrigerator overnight instead of running hot water over it the day you are cooking it.

Tip 6: Keep your travel plans in mind. If you need to make many errands, as many people do, try to combine many errands into one trip or look to patronize retailers that are within walking distance of your home. These things will help decrease the pollution from your car, the amount of gas used over the holidays, and the headaches of so many cars on the road while increasing the amount of money in your pocket since you won't be spending as much on gas.



Just by following all or a few of these tips, you will be able to keep your green lifestyle throughout the holidays while even keeping a few extra dollars in your pocket. The most important thing to remember is that you do not need to stop celebrating the holidays but pay more attention to how you celebrate the holidays. There are many more things that you can do to help be more “Green” this holiday season and there are great resources out there through governmental agencies such as the Environmental Protection Agency, companies like Duke Energy, and other sources like the World Wildlife Fund. I hope that you find some of these tips helpful and they help you have a great holiday season and I wish you a great holidays and a happy and safe new year!



2009 Zoo Run-Run

This year's Zoo Run-Run was held on Saturday, July 18th. This 5k run/walk through the historic Columbian Park neighborhood, gave families a great, inexpensive way to get up and moving. Over 500 participants came out to enjoy the great weather and the yummy pancake breakfast sponsored by Bison Financial. In addition, runners and walkers had the opportunity to mingle with zoo staff as well as some of the residents! Next year's run will be held on Saturday, July 17th. Mark your calendars and we'll see you there!



Penguin Ball



The Penguin Ball will be held on February 20th, 2010 at the Lafayette Country Club. This elegant evening will begin with animal encounters from some of your favorite zoo residents and the opportunity to bid on wonderful items in the silent auction. A scrumptious dinner and a night of dancing will follow. The evening will be capped off with a live auction. Space is limited so don't delay. Call 765-807-1545 to reserve your place today!



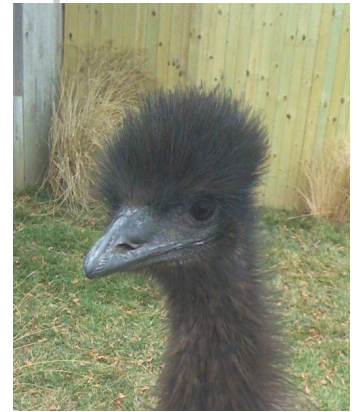
FOCPZ MEMBERSHIPS

Year-long memberships are available for \$25, \$30, \$40, \$100, \$200, and \$500. Memberships make great gift for the person who has everything. Benefits include a one year subscription to the Tracks Newsletter, free or discounted admission to over 50 zoos nationwide, plus a 10% gift discount in the Columbian Park Zoo gift shop and discounts on educational programs! Call 765-807-1545 or visit www.columbianparkzoo.org for more information.



Get ready to go "down under" in the new Australia exhibit, Wallaby Walkabout. This amazing exhibit sponsored by **Eli Lilly, Tippecanoe Labs**, will transport you from Lafayette to the Outback in a matter of minutes. Before you know it, you'll be strolling along a winding pathway amidst wallabies and kangaroos while listening to the soothing sounds of Galah cockatoos and Laughing kookaburras from the new aviary located inside the exhibit. You'll watch emus frolic in their new home and welcome the New Guinea singing dogs back to Columbian Park Zoo.

Wallaby Walkabout



North American River Otters

Columbian Park Zoo is excited to announce that Wabash National Corporation has generously sponsored the new North American River Otter exhibit, "Otter Creek", which will open in the spring of 2010. The zoo's three resident otters, Scooter, Scamper and Rascal will be easily viewed by adults and children alike, as they swim and play in their new 18,000 gallon pool. This interactive exhibit, designed to emulate the otters' natural

habitat, includes a water feature, natural logs lush plantings and a clear, crawl-through tunnel that allows

children to get an "up close" look at these incredible animals. Large windows provide optimal viewing from several angles and are ideal for families with smaller children. We're sure this will become one of the favorite exhibits at Columbian Park Zoo, and we hope to see you at the zoo this spring!



Congratulations, it's a girl... and another girl!



FOCPZ welcomes two new residents to the zoo family. Galapagos Tortoises, Boxie (approximately 90 years old) and Isabela (approximately 23 years old), are settled in and ready for the zoo's opening in April. Galapagos tortoises are one

of the largest tortoises species in the world and are native to the Galapagos Islands located off the coast of Ecuador. These giant reptiles can live to be more than 100 years old and eat a diet consisting of grass, leaves, fruits, vines and other vegetation. The Galapagos tortoise was once so numerous that Spanish explorers named the chain of islands, Galapagos which means "tortoise" in Spanish. Unfortunately during the 1600's, the tortoises were used as a source of food for mariners. In the present day, these tortoises are threatened by non-native species such as dogs, cats and rats. The Galapagos tortoise is now an Endangered Species.



Creature Feature:



Eastern Indigo Snake

By: Noah Shields

Columbian Park Zoo staff would like to introduce “Junior”, an Eastern Indigo Snake that is now serving as an Animal Ambassador for his species. In the wild, Eastern Indigo Snakes can be found throughout Florida and the southern most parts of Georgia and Alabama. They occupy a variety of habitats throughout their range including: pine flatwoods, scrubby flatwoods, dry prairie, tropical hardwood forests, edges of freshwater marshes, agricultural fields and coastal dunes. Above all else, they are found in the same habitats as gopher tortoises. They share a symbiotic relationship with the gopher tortoise in the wild. Snakes are not good diggers and because of that cannot dig out burrows underground to escape from heat or cold. Indigo snakes will seek out a gopher tortoise burrow and live alongside the tortoise. The snake also provides a service for the tortoise by keeping the borrow free from pests such as mice and rats. The Eastern Indigo snake is the longest North American snake species. They can reach lengths up to 8 feet. These are non-venomous snakes and like other non-venomous snakes, must kill their prey by other means. This species carries out that task differently than some boas and pythons. Instead of wrapping their body around their prey and squeezing, this snake repeatedly strikes its prey, oftentimes around its head, and knocks the prey unconscious. After the prey is rendered unconscious, the snake then begins eating the prey while it is still alive. They can carry out these things because they are a surprisingly strong snake and they are a species that is still quite active at lower temperatures. In the wild they are known to eat small mammals, amphibians, birds, venomous snakes and young turtles. They are also immune to most North American snake venom. They are uniformly black in body color and can display some red or creme color under their chins. This species is endangered. At one time, these snakes were prevalent throughout most of the Southern United States from Florida up to North Carolina. Habitat destruction, pollution and collection for the exotic pet trade has quickly decreased this snakes habitat and numbers to what is present today.

Help Support FOCPPZ
By Recycling Printer Cartridges



Did you know that just by bringing in your old printer cartridges, you can help raise money for FOCPPZ? Each toner cartridge earns \$2 towards purchases at Staples! Please consider donating your empty cartridges! For more information, call 765-807-1545.

Eco-Cell Program

Even though we are closed for the season, we are still collecting old and used cell-phones for our Eco-Cell program. By dropping off your old cell phones and cell phone accessories in the designated Drop Box at Columbian Park Zoo, you reduce the risk of the hazardous materials found in these phones ending up in our landfills and poisoning our environment. Your old cell phones help raise much needed funds for Columbian Park Zoo conservation projects. Help us turn your cell phone into cash—Donate today!

If you have questions, contact:
Noah Shields, Education Assistant
765-807-1540
nshields@lafayette.in.gov



EdZOOcation Corner

It's that time of year again...time to register for Columbian Park Zoo's annual education classes. This is your chance to give your child an exciting, yet educational experience like no other! Season passes for Little Cub Club, Young EDventurers and Bedtime Zoo Stories are now on sale for 2010 at a discounted rate. This season pass discount **COMBINES** with your FOCPS discount for great savings. Please contact Amber Frederick, Education Coordinator, at 765-807-1546 for more information or download a registration form from www.columbianparkzoo.org. Classes fill up quickly—don't wait, sign up today!

BEDTIME ZOO STORIES:

January 8: (Hedgehog)
February 5: (Lizards)
March 5: (Opossum)
April 9: (Sloth)
May 7: (Bugs)
June 4: (Tortoise)

July 2: (Parrot)
August 6: (Chicken)
September 3: (Guinea Pig)
October 1: (Snake)
November 5: (Rabbit)
December 3: (Armadillo)



Give the gift of education!

From now until December 23rd, 2009, when you purchase a season pass as a gift for that special child in your life, we'll throw in a certificate and an adorable plush animal as a bonus! That's three gifts for the price of one! (Packages must be picked up at the Zoo office).

LITTLE CUB CLUB:

January — Rabbit
1/9 at 10:00 am
1/9 at 11:30am
February — Horse
2/13 at 10:00 am
2/13 at 11:30am
March — Fox
3/13 at 10:00 am
3/13 at 11:30am
April — Goats
4/10 at 10:00 am
4/10 at 11:30am
May — Frogs
5/8 at 10:00 am
5/8 at 11:30am
June — Snakes
6/12 at 10:00 am
6/12 at 11:30am
July — Bugs
7/10 at 10:00 am
7/10 at 11:30am
August — Marsupials
8/14 at 10:00 am
8/14 at 11:30am
September — Rodents
9/11 at 10:00 am
9/11 at 11:30am
October — Parrot
10/9 at 10:00 am
10/9 at 11:30am
November — Lizards
11/13 at 10:00 am
11/13 at 11:30am
December — Chicken
12/11 at 10:00 am
12/11 at 11:30am

YOUNG EDVENTURER WORKSHOPS

**Individual Sessions:
\$18/\$16 FOCPS**

AGES 6-8	AGES 8-11
AGES 6-8 SPRING SEASON February 13, 2:00-4:00pm "Rainforest Tails" March 13, 2:00-4:00pm "Animal Armor" April 10, 2:00-4:00pm "Living Fossils" *AGES 6-8 SPRING MINI-SEASON PASS (All 3 Spring sessions \$48/\$42 FOCPS)	AGES 8-11 SPRING SEASON February 20, 10:00am-12:00pm "Up All Night" March 20, 10:00am-12:00pm "What's Wild" April 17, 10:00am-12:00pm "Animals in Flight" *AGES 6-8 SPRING MINI-SEASON PASS (All 3 spring sessions \$48/\$42 FOCPS)
AGES 6-8 FALL SEASON October 9, 2:00-4:00pm "Spineless Wonders" November 13, 2:00-4:00pm "Animals on the Move" December 11, 2:00-4:00pm "Fur, Glorious Fur!" *AGES 6-8 FALL MINI-SEASON PASS (All 3 Fall sessions \$48/\$42 FOCPS)	AGES 8-11 FALL SEASON October 16, 10:00am-12:00pm "Nature's Makeovers" November 20, 10:00am-12:00pm "Behavior Basics" December 18, 10:00am-12:00pm "Symbiosis Study" *AGES 8-11 FALL MINI-SEASON PASS (All 3 Fall sessions \$48/\$42 FOCPS)
AGES 6-8 FULL YEAR PASS All 6 sessions \$90/\$78 FOCPS	AGES 8-11 FULL YEAR PASS All 6 sessions \$90/\$78 FOCPS



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Sign up to receive newsletters via e-mail to help save and conserve the environment! You'll receive the same exciting information with updates on *your* zoo, and you'll be helping to save the planet! To be included on the e-mail list, please e-mail:

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765-807-1545.